

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

2 FEB. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. Boun Oum refuses to go to Luang Prabang and tells Souvanna also to stay away until his forces pull-back from Nam Tha. Enemy mortar fire on Nam Tha airfield yesterday denied its use to government aircraft.

b. On Wednesday Souvanna's headquarters forbade his commander at Nam Tha to attack the town "because of the political loss which may result" adding, however, "if the Pathet Lao attack" his forces must also.

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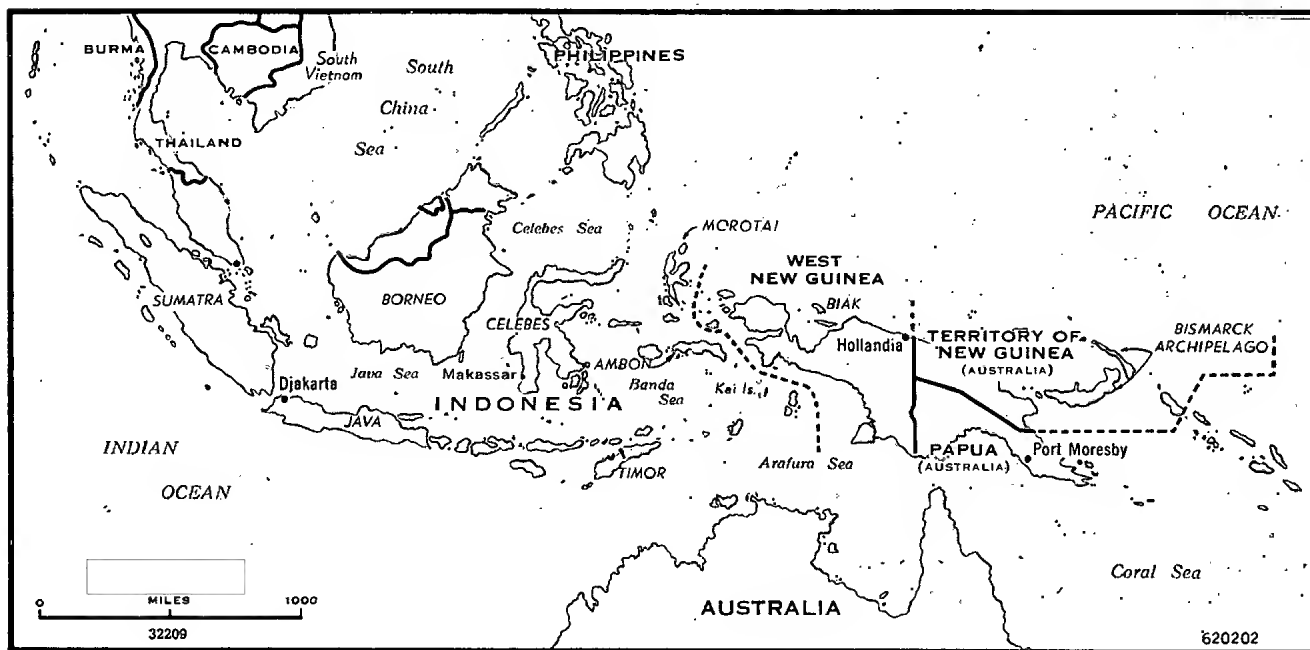
c. The ICC is still after Xieng Khouang approval to check alleged cease-fire violations. Their presence should help lower the temperature.

2. South Vietnam

a. Saigon military units were alerted last night against a possible anti-Diem coup by disgruntled army officers.

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c. Diem is actively following up his earlier requests for South Korean and Chinese Nationalist military assistance.



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3. Indonesia reinforces
Morotai

a. IL-28 jet light bombers--the first into this area--and arms and ammunition including aerial bombs are scheduled to move there next week. The island lies 240 miles off the New Guinea coast and well within air strike range of Biak, the main Dutch military installation in New Guinea.

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b. Pre-negotiation talks in New York are temporarily suspended as the Indonesian UN Ambassador goes to Europe for a check on the "secret" negotiations there. His resumption of talks with U Thant will depend on these findings. From what the Dutch tell us of these talks prospects of agreement are not too bright.

c. Djakarta tells us (1) oil exploitation negotiations with American companies are stalled pending West Irian developments; (2) it hopes the Attorney General will have good news on economic aid.

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4. Latin American ferment

a. Frondizi is now facing his most severe crisis with the Argentine military. They expect he will accede to their demands for a Cuban break but are prepared [redacted] 50X1 [redacted] if he doesn't. The interior 50X1 minister's blocking of Peron's bid to run for electoral office yesterday is at least 50X1 a partial response to military demands.

b. Frondizi has reportedly justified Argentine's OAS stand to his military critics as having been taken with the knowledge and consent of the US Government. [redacted] 50X1 [redacted] 50X1

[redacted]

5. Communist bloc activity

a. We suspect major decisions are finally shaping up in the current spate of meetings. The Warsaw Pact defense ministers discussions concluded yesterday follow Khrushchev's reported session with other leaders in mid-January. A top-level Pact political meeting is in the offing, probably preceding the 5 March Soviet Central Committee plenum.

b. We believe Albania, China and Berlin are high on the agenda and expect the political session may be used to endorse the current "Soviet line emphasizing a "negotiated" Berlin settlement. Ulbricht's "special plane" arrived in Moscow yesterday. [redacted] 50X1

(cont'd)

c. There are also indications that Peiping is cranking up for a major conference this month.

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6. Cross currents in the Near East

a. Qasim, intent on supplanting Nasir as Arab spokesman, is now wooing King Saud. His foreign minister, fresh from Syrian negotiations, bids the Saudis join them against the British, Israelis and Egyptians.

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c. Damascus has followed up its earlier request for Saud's intercession with ARAMCO for an urgent loan by asking him to also make a personal demarche to our government for a \$100 million dollar loan to aid Syria in its present financial crisis.

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- A.
- B. Ambassador Young thinks we are heading into a tangle with the Thais over SEATO.
- C. Embassy Bonn notes increasing West German inclination to accept the Soviet bid for direct talks. Dowling reports that Schroeder would wish to coordinate action closely with us.
- D. The Security Council has deferred further Kashmir consideration until after March 1.
- E. Venezuela is cooling off on her British Guiana claim. Her delegation to the UN finds little support in New York and itself disagrees with Caracas' approach.
- F. Moscow radio welcomes President Kennedy's remarks concerning improved communications, "Any step by the US to improve relations will certainly be appreciated by the USSR."

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DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

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II. **Thais criticize SEATO.**

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE